

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 /078 W

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O R 101600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3324

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 1033

S E C R E T JIDDA 0158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE

REF: JIDDA 0062

SUMMARY: FONMINISTER PRINCE SA'UD SAYS SAG HAS
COORDINATED WITH EGYPT, SYRIA AND THE PLO ABOUT NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE
DEBATE AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAYS ARAB SIDE HAS
AGREED TO THREE-PART RESOLUTION THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR
(A) WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED
IN 1967 AND 1973; (B) PROVISION FOR RIGHTS OF
PALESTINIANS; AND (C) GARANTIES OF SECURITY FOR
STATES OF THE AREA. SAUD SAID RESOLUTION IS
PHRASED TO MAXIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF WINNING U.S. APPROVAL.
END SUMMARY

1. ON JAN 10, SAUDI FONMIN PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL

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CALLED CHARGE IN FOR DISCUSSION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL

MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST. PRINCE ASKED IF THERE WAS SUBSTANCE TO A REPORT HE HAD JUST SEEN FROM GENEVA THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD FORMALLY AGREED TO SERVE AS ISRAEL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVOCATE DURING THE DEBATE WHICH SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JAN 12. CHARGE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT BIASED OR INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD TRY TO DEFINE OUR POSITION ON THIS SIGNIFICANT AND HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUE IN A WAY THAT WOULD SUIT THEIR OWN PURPOSE. PRINCE SAUD SAID CHARGE'S STATEMENT WAS IN ACCORD WITH WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE U.S. POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

2. PRINCE SAUD ASKED THAT CHARGE EMPHASIZE TO USG THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS APPROACHING DEBATE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TENSE AND FRAGILE, AND THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT THINK ITS INTEREST OR THE CAUSE OF PEACE WOULD BE SERVED BY A NEGATIVE DEBATE AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WOULD PUT A FURTHER OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF ANY MOVES TOWARD PEACE. 1976 COULD PROVE A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR IN THE AREA IF THERE WAS NO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, AND SAUDI ARABIA WANTED TO DO WHAT IT COULD VIA THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SEE THAT NO OPPORTUNITY FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT HAD BEEN MISSED. ACCORDINGLY, SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOME -- BUT NOT ALL -- OF THE ARAB PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. THE SAG HAD SPECIFICALLY TALKED WITH EGYPT, SYRIA, AND THE PLO. OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A THREE-PART ARAB RESOLUTION THAT WOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR (1) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES (SIC) OCCUPIED DURING 1967 AND 1973; (2) PROVISIONS FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS; AND (3) GUARANTIES OF SECURITY FOR THE STATES OF THE AREA.

3. PRINCE SAUD SAID THE ARAB POSITION HAD BEEN DRAWN UP WITH AN EYE TO MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE

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UNITED STATES TO BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH IT. THE SPIRIT AND EVEN LANGUAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S 1973 MEETINGS WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN PREPARING ARAB RESOLUTION. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE ARABS THAT THE RESOLUTION WIN THE WIDEST SUPPORT POSSIBLE. SAUDI ARABIA, HE REPEATED, PARTICULARLY HOPED THE UNITED STATES COULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

4. CHARGE ASKED IF PLO WAS PREPARED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH POINT ON SECURITY GUARANTIES FOR ALL THE STATES OF THE AREA WHICH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS HAD EARLIER MENTIONED? PRINCE SAUD THOUGHT THIS WAS A POINT HE THOUGH USG COULD EXPLORE WITH THE PALESTINIANS IN COURSE OF DEBATE. CHARGE REPLIED THERE WAS VERY LITTLE COMMON BASIS FOR ANY FORMAL DISCUSSIONS OR CONTACTS SO LONG AS PLO CONTINUE OFFICIALLY TO INSIST ON DISLUTION OF ISRAEL AS A PRECONDITION TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT. PRINCE ASKED AGAIN THAT USG APPROACH THE DISCUSSIONS IN A POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE FRAME OF MIND AND THAT SAG WOULD TRY TO SEE THAT THE SAME ATTITUDE WOULD MAKE ITSELF FELT ON THE ARAB SIDE OF THE DISCUSSION.

5. BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS SAW PRINCE SAUD IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS. WE PRESUME HE COVERED SOME OF SAME GROUND WITH THEM.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ARBITRATION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA00158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0063
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760169/aaaacizg.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 62
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, XF, UNSC, PLO, (SAUD, KHALID IBN ABD AL-AZIZ AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006